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US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



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**COPY**

**REILLY TAR & CHEMICAL CORPORATION**

MR. R. J. BOYLE - Indpls.

St. Louis Park

Mr. E. L. Finch

March 23, 1971

POLLUTION PICKETING

*Reilly Tar*

Attached is a copy of what one might call a note or letter given to us on Tuesday, March 16th. The group of children carrying posters and signs entered the plant property to protest supposed pollution. There were probably fifteen or twenty in the group with no adult supervision. We asked five of the children to come up to the office and we would talk to them which we did. We explained to the children that we had reduced the odor one thousand fold and that we had made plans to discharge contaminated water into the sewer. We also attempted to explain that we could not control the ground runoff water that goes over Walker Street as the City of St. Louis Park was running the water from their streets into the plant. Several of the children seemed to know that the water was coming into the plant.

In conclusion we did explain to the group that the plant was closing and gave them the dates when the operation should be finished.

These children reported that the 10th and 11th graders were going to come down and picket the plant on Friday. They reported that they would be over the road to the plant on Friday. At first we dismissed this as very likely but pollution. It later we contacted the Chief of Police of St. Louis Park who in turn investigated the rumor with the High School. Mr. Joranson, the Chief of Police also took a copy of the letter presented to us by the group that came on March 16th.

Plans were made to intercept the group at the gate and advise them that they were trespassing and procedure was established to notify the St. Louis Park Police who had been alerted for a possible call. We are pleased to report that no disturbance took place at all on Friday.

Yours very truly,

*E. L. Finch*  
E. L. Finch

HLF:ge

Attachment

cc: Mr. C. F. Lester - Indpls.

*T. J. Ryan*

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